

Chehalis Municipal Court Considers Increased Security

By Kyle Spurr kspurr@chronline.com | Posted: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 7:53 am

The Chehalis Municipal Court made plans to heighten its security Monday night in an effort to protect against situations similar to the Grays Harbor attack that left a judge and deputy injured last month.

Chehalis Municipal Court Judge Dale McBeth and Court Administrator Rebecca Fox presented their plans to the city council Monday night.

McBeth and Fox proposed purchasing a permanently mounted, walk-through metal detector and an extra security guard, hired on a contract basis.

"Our concern is the possibility that someone could walk into the door just as they walked into the Grays Harbor County Courthouse with a weapon to do whatever they want," McBeth said.

McBeth was referencing Steven Kravetz, 34, who was charged for attempted second-degree murder for stabbing and shooting Deputy Polly Davin and stabbing Superior Court Judge David Edwards in the Grays Harbor County Courthouse March 9.

Currently, the Chehalis Municipal Court is protected by a part-time security guard, who has to split her time between the jail and courthouse. The current security guard uses a metal detecting wand.

Fox said the new walk-through metal detector will cost \$5,400 and she said the court would use drug seizure funds from the police department to cover the cost. The contracted security guard would cost \$100 a week for the four-hour shift.